

North Hampton Heritage Commission

Meeting

March 15, 2007

Location: North Hampton Town Office, Heritage Conference Room

Commissioners Present:

Jenifer Landman, Chair

Jane Currivan, Vice-Chair

Penny Kidd, Secretary

Jane Palmer, Alternate

Paul Cuetara

Commissioners Absent:

Donald Gould, Selectman

Carolyn Brooks, Treasurer

Ben King, Alternate

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 a.m.

A. Treasurer Report & Brochure Printing Expense

Due to the absence of the Treasurer, a report was not given.

B. Minutes

Minutes for January 18, 2007 were reviewed. Motion to approve: Jane Palmer; Seconded by Jane Currivan; followed by unanimous approval with one abstention by Paul Cuetara, who was not present at the January meeting.

C. Town Hall Committee Status

The Committee met February 16, 2007. Minutes were published. The steeple is the primary focus for a study in preparation of the RFP for contractors. A motion was proposed by Paul Cuetara, seconded by Jane Palmer, and passed unanimously to purchase seven copies of The New Hampshire Division of Historical Preservation Alliance's publication "Preserving Community Character" at \$15 each plus shipping and handling. A letter will be sent to Jan Facella, Town Administrative Assistant, to reimburse Mr. Cuetara for the expense. These copies will be loaned to the Town Hall Restoration Committee and then returned to the Heritage Commission immediately upon completion of the committee's tasks.

A grant application is being drafted by the Town Hall Committee which will include the Heritage Commission's letter of endorsement of the project to restore the Town Hall. The Town Hall Committee will be meeting with the Planning Board requesting a letter from them. The Board of Selectmen is to provide a letter, also. These letters emphasize the town's support for the project and the effort to obtain a grant. Mr. Cuetara advised that the grant application will require a three-page narrative to list all of the points necessary.

The contractor must be listed on preferred contractor's list. RFPs will go to this list. The town has \$48,000 remaining from the last year's warrant article of \$100,000 for repairs to

town buildings. About \$29,000 was used for the emergency generator at the school. About \$30,000 was used for Town Hall. The \$48,000 is available until July 1, 2007.

The steeple will be one of the first efforts made toward the restoration, because of its: 1)visibility to the community; 2) interior renovations will not be impacted by the restoration of the steeple, and 3) if the building is moved, the steeple must first be stabilized.

Help from the community is needed to support the project of restoration. Examples might include: church groups, the Historical Society, Heritage Commission, newspaper articles (when appropriate), a “watch dog” group on how the Town’s money from the warrant article to restore public buildings is spent, creation of an exhibit at the library, and publicizing the efforts to obtain grants.

D. Change in Venue for the Heritage Commission

The Heritage Room will relocate within the same building to the area once occupied by the Tax Collector. This arrangement was made to facilitate the Town Clerk’s consolidated position with that of the Tax Collector. The Motion for this change was made by Jane Palmer, seconded by Jane Currivan, and approved unanimously.

E. Moose Plate Grant

The attachments for the \$10,000 planning grant includes a copy of a letter that the Town Hall is a State Historical Site. This does not prevent the structure from being moved or torn down. The circumstances differ if declared on the National Historical Register. There is a need to work with the Historical Society. It was also noted that it will be easier to get the Town Hall on the National Registry of Historic Places after the restoration is completed. It will also be less “red tape” to perform these repairs prior to the national designation.

F. Agenda for the Next Meeting

The April meeting of the Heritage Commission will include the election of officers. The renewal of appointments of Ben King and Jane Currivan were discussed. The motion was made by Penny Kidd, seconded by Jenny Landman, and passed unanimously.

G. Famous People of North Hampton

Jane Palmer submitted a summary to recognize Governor Charles Dale, who lived in a home on the residential acreage now owned by the Harley Davidson dealer.

H. Meeting Adjourned

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Penny Kidd